Sadhujana Paripalana Sangham, it was found on enquiry that a large portion of it was in the occupation of members of other classes, and such portion was accordingly directed to be registered in the names of the respective occupants. The remaining area has been ordered to be registered in favour of the members of the Sadhujana Paripalana Sangham, and the Senior Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, has been asked to report whether unoccupied lands could not be found in the Neyyattinkara or Nedumangad taluk for assignment to the members of the Sangham to make up the balance. The Deputy Tahsildar, Neyyattinkara, has been ordered to carry out the work of registry expeditiously. A similar measure of relief has been afforded to the Kanikars, who are the most important among the Hill tribes of Travancore. Sanction has been accorded to lands outside the reserved forests being registered in their names free of *tharavila* and all arrears of tax.

10. Survey.—The resurvey of the Nedumangad taluk was completed and the final records were supplied to the Revenue Department. The area brought under re-survey was 217·8 square miles and the total cost Rs. 1,47,407, giving an average of Rs. 677 per square mile. A new Survey school was opened at Kottayam in addition to the Central Survey school at Trivandrum.

11. Forests.—The total area of re-served forests at the end of 1093 was 2,383 square miles and 117 acres, and of reserved lands 77 square miles and 50 acres. In view to the expeditious disposal of the large volume of Forest Settlement work still remaining to be done, Government have appointed a Special Forest Settlement Peishkar for one year with effect from the 10th Chingam, 1094. Including a simple working scheme for one of the circles, regular working plans have till now been sanctioned for an area of 673 square miles and 210 acres. An additional area of 388 acres was newly planted with teak and the existing plantations covering an area of 4,103 acres were properly maintained. The policy of restricting the exploitation of royal timber from the reserved forests was persisted in. The balance stock at the sale depôts was brought to a minimum. The tentative measure originally sanctioned and subsequently extended for the abolition of export duty on timber, firewood and charcoal, was further extended for another period of five years. The gross revenue rose from Rs. 14,75,347 in 1092 to Rs. 15,15,293 in 1093 and the net revenue from Rs. 6,25,609 to Rs. 8,64,955. The large increase in the net revenue was mainly due to the extension of the system of coupe-sales in the Northern and Shencottah Divisions. This system, I may say, is not the unmixed evil that it is often represented to be. Under adequate safeguards and subject to the proper supervision of the purchaser's operations, it is an easy and effective source of revenue. The net revenue of the Department in 1087 was only Rs. 2,83,383 and it is a matter for congratulation that it has more than trebled itself during the last six years. Government take this opportunity of recording their appreciation of the good work done by Mr. V. Subrahmanya Aiyar, Conservator of Forests.

12. Salt.—The area actually worked as salt pans rose from 301 to 355 acres. Prompt steps are being taken to bring the balance of the available area also under cultivation. The production of home salt fell, owing to untimely rains, from 4,83,843 maunds to 3,74,983 maunds. I note with pleasure that the consumption in 1093 increased by 44,928 maunds, the average consumption per head of population rising from 24·3 lbs. to 26·1 lbs.

13. Excise.—The consumption of country liquor fell from 1,05,793 proof gallons to 95,122 proof gallons, giving an average of 1·3 drams per head of population. The number of licenses issued for tapping cocoanut and palmyra trees for toddy, also showed an appreciable decline, while the quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State fell by 7,488 gallons or as much as 37·9 per cent. The sale prices of opium and ganja were increased.

PROTECTION.

14. Legislation.—Two Regulations were passed by the Legislative Council during 1093, *viz.*, Regulation I of 1093 to amend the Press Regulation and Regulation II of 1093 to amend the Cattle Trespass Regulation. Two Regulations

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were also passed direct by His Highness the Maha Raja, *viz.*, Regulation III of 1093 to amend the Travancore Land Customs Regulation and Regulation IV of 1093 to amend the Travancore Sea Customs Regulation. Since the close of the year, five more Regulations have been passed, of which the most important are Regulation I of 1094 to amend the law relating to ports and port charges, Regulation III of 1094 *re* Chitties in Travancore, and Regulation IV of 1094 to amend the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. A Bill to prevent juvenile smoking has been directed to be introduced into the Council. The final report of the Ezhava Law Committee has been received since the close of 1093 and it will be taken up for consideration after the expiry of the period fixed for the communities affected to make their representations.

15. Vacancy in the Council.—A vacancy will soon arise in the Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. K. Parameśvaran Pillai, who had been returned by the Members of the Quilon Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Members of that Division now meet under the presidency of the Division Peishkar, Quilon, and elect a representative. The name of the representative elected by them will be duly submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja for consideration.

16. Reform of the Council.—The question of amending the Legislative Council Regulation, V of 1073, with a view to increase the scope and usefulness of the Council has been under the consideration of Government for some time. It is now more than twenty-one years since the existing enactment on the subject was passed, and the comparatively high level of educational progress attained in the country during the interval warrants the introduction of a substantial instalment of reform, calculated to satisfy the growing desire of the people to share in the work of administration in a larger measure than hitherto. An amending Bill, enlarging the Council and conferring enhanced powers on the non-official members, is now under consideration.

17. Police.—The total number of cognizable cases taken up by the Police including arrears, which had fallen from 3,631 to 3,483 in 1092, fell further to 3,376 in 1093. The reduction in crime during the latter year, though insignificant, is a matter for gratification in a period of economic strain. The relations between the Police and the Magistracy were harmonious. Complaints of abuse of power by Police officers showed an appreciable decline, and a general tendency towards co-operation between the Police and the public, which is an unmistakable indication of improvement in Police efficiency, was in evidence. The provisions of the Hackney Carriage Regulation, VI of 1089, which was already in force in Trivandrum, were extended to the towns of Quilon and Alleppey. Six probationary Sub-Inspectors were additionally entertained in the Department. Since the close of 1093, the pay of the constabulary has been revised, so as to secure accelerated promotion, and an additional grade of constables on Rs. 10 has also been sanctioned.

18. Central Prison.—The health of the prisoners in the Central Prison has been the best on record since 1086. The percentage of sick to strength fell from 1·4 to 1·07 and the daily average of sick from 8·9 to 5·9. There were only 12 deaths. The use of pure milk from the dairy farm opened during the year partly accounts for the improvement attained in this direction. The Committee appointed for the revision of the Jail Rules have submitted their recommendations, closely following the latest rules on the subject in force in the Madras Presidency and introducing only such changes as local conditions require. The revised rules have been passed by Government with certain modifications and will be soon published. The appointment of non-official visitors has been provided for in the new rules.

19. Civil Courts.—The number of original civil suits instituted during 1093 was 72,485, showing a slight decrease of 1,163 as compared with that of the previous year. This reduction, however, is perhaps temporary. The steady rise in the volume of original litigation since 1084, when it numbered only 47,800 suits, is a matter of

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